carrier for the biomaterial, the carrier comprising a polysaccharide gel having a viscosity between about 20,000 centipoise to about 350,000 centipoise, wherein the carrier maintains the biomaterial homogeneously suspended in the biocompatible composition prior to augmentation of a desired tissue site and during introduction of the biocompatible composition to the desired site.

B2 Cont

41. (Amended) In a biocompatible composition for augmenting tissue, the biocompatible composition comprising a biomaterial for augmenting a desired tissue site and a biocompatible, resorbable, lubricous carrier for the biomaterial, the improvement comprising a polysaccharide gel carrier, having a viscosity between about 20,000 centipoise to about 350,000 centipoise, the carrier maintaining the biomaterial homogeneously suspended in the biocompatible composition prior to augmentation of a desired tissue site and during introduction of the biocompatible composition to the desired site.

B3

Additionally, please add the following new claims:

57. The carrier according to claim 1, further comprising an additive.

58. The carrier according to claim 57, wherein the additive is selected from the group consisting of a pH buffer, a stabilizer, and a surfactant.

B4

59. The carrier according to claim 1, wherein the polysaccharide gel has a viscosity of from about 150,000 centipoise to about 250,000 centipoise.

60. The carrier according to claim 59, wherein the polysaccharide gel has a viscosity of from about 200,000 centipoise to about 250,000 centipoise.

61. The composition according to claim 21, further comprising an additive.

62. The composition according to claim 61, wherein the additive is selected from the group consisting of a pH buffer, a stabilizer, and a surfactant.

63. The composition according to claim 21, wherein the polysaccharide gel has a viscosity of from about 150,000 centipoise to about 250,000 centipoise.

64. The composition according to claim 63, wherein the polysaccharide gel has a viscosity of from about 200,000 centipoise to about 250,000 centipoise.

65. The composition according to claim 42, further comprising an additive.

66. The composition according to claim ~~61~~ 65, wherein the additive is selected from the group consisting of a pH buffer, a stabilizer, and a surfactant.

67. The composition according to claim 42, wherein the polysaccharide gel has a viscosity of from about 150,000 centipoise to about 250,000 centipoise.